

TWENTY - FOURTH

Annual - Report

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health,

Public Health Acts Committee,

OF THE

LOUTH

RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL,

FOR THE YEAR 1896,

BY

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*To the Chairman and Members of the Public
Health Acts Committee*

OF THE

Louth Rural District Council.

GENTLEMEN,

Since the date of my last Annual Report, Mablethorpe has been constituted a separate District with Urban powers since the 29th of October last; consequently, any remarks I may have to offer in regard to Mablethorpe will refer to the period when your Authority were exercising control over it as far as its sanitary conditions were concerned. Mablethorpe has an acreage of 2563, and the population, according to the last census, was 728, and the number of inhabited houses was 173. This arrangement will leave the Louth Rural District, as at present constituted, with an acreage of 142,263, and a population of 20,639. The returns henceforth will be calculated on that basis.

In the course of this Report I shall offer some remarks upon the sanitary condition of Mablethorpe for the period of its connection with your Authority, and there will be especial interest felt in regard to its history for the year 1896.

Great attention has been paid to the drainage and water supply, and, owing to obstruction in the drainage in two localities, extensive repairs were necessary. I recommended that flushing should be resorted to, but the appliances were wanting, although a proposal was considered to flush a portion of the drainage system by means of a hydrant connected with the dike near the Railway Station. Technical difficulties prevented this being carried out, moreover the transfer of the sanitary authority being so near at hand, it was thought better to allow the question to stand over.

It is to be hoped that the first efforts of the Mablethorpe Sanitary Authority will be directed towards procuring appliances to meet this difficulty, as nothing will conduce more to the prosperity of Mablethorpe than by maintaining an efficient system of drainage, which would be appreciated by the visitors; and, with a view to this end, operations should be commenced early in the next season, because complaints of noxious smells were not infrequent during the year 1896, although they were not productive of disease.

The water supply of Mablethorpe is scarcely satisfactory owing to its proximity to the seashore, but much has been done of late to improve it. Diarrhœa was very prevalent amongst the inmates of the Convalescent Home until about two years ago, when the well was tubed to the surface, and the prevalence of diarrhœa entirely vanished. This affords a good indication of the importance of a good water supply. To sum up, it may be said, that with satisfactory drainage and good water Mablethorpe should hold its own with any watering-place on this coast. As I have in former reports detailed the improvements effected in the drainage and ventilation of the Convalescent Home, it will not be necessary for me to do more than refer to them. I

will merely draw attention to the fact that the population during the season may be roughly estimated at 100, including patients, employees, and neighbours living in the vicinity. All have enjoyed almost complete immunity from infectious diseases, only two notifications having been received from these sources during the past year.

Many of the wells in Mablethorpe are satisfactory, and as the inhabitants, more especially the lodging-house keepers, are recommended to use filters, there does not appear to be any danger as regards the water supply. Eight new wells have been sunk and six cleaned out; and the state of the public health at the date of this Report is fairly good. One fatal case of typhoid fever, due to overcrowding and insanitary conditions, occurred in February, the subject of it was a female aged 48. A child, aged 6, died in January from diphtheria, due to impure water. A new well has been sunk, and three others, which were notified, recovered. Two cases of scarlatina were also reported.

I shall now proceed to offer some remarks upon the District generally. The seasons have been marked by a drought in summer, followed by an increased rainfall in the autumn months, which greatly interfered with harvest operations.

Diarrhœa was not noticed to be prevalent, as will be seen; only 3 deaths occurred under this head, and the question as to the cause and origin of this complaint, named, not inaptly, "Autumnal Diarrhœa," has yet to be discovered for it has hitherto baffled all enquiry. Perhaps the unusual rainfall may in some measure account for the immunity from this disease.

Measles have been epidemic in many parishes, and necessitated the closing of the schools for short periods in the parishes of Binbrook, South Somercotes, and Trus-thorpe. Grainthorpe also suffered severely. The disease

was very general in this latter parish, and two deaths occurred from chest complications, although I felt it my duty to urge upon parents the necessity of keeping the patients warm and avoiding exposure to cold. There was also a fatal case from this cause in S. Somercotes. At the date of this report the decline of measles has been general.

Scarlatina. The cases of this disease were generally of a mild character, and no death occurred. It was most prevalent at Marshchapel, where it assumed the form of an epidemic, which involved the school being closed for a considerable period (from 18th July until 14th September). Although the disease was difficult to eradicate it is satisfactory to note that none of the cases were of a severe character. Disinfectants, and the usual precautions were strictly carried out. In the parishes of Manby and Grimoldby, scarlatina also developed an epidemic form in the early part of the year, which necessitated the school being closed from the 27th January to the 24th February. Other cases of a sporadic nature were reported from various parishes, but do not call for any particular comment. The practice of excluding infected families from attendance at school, as recommended by the Local Government Board, obviated the necessity of a general closing of the schools in many cases.

Diphtheria. Three fatal cases were reported; 2 occurred early in the year. The subject of one was a boy, age nine, who died at S. Elkington in the month of January. Seven members of this family contracted the disease, and the house, being situated on an eminence, left nothing to be desired as far as its sanitation was concerned. The majority of cases were mild, and it was deemed prudent to close the school for a fortnight. Another case occurred at Mablethorpe, near the station; the subject of it was Jessie Semper, aged six years, and the water supply being unsatis-

factory, a new well was sunk by the owner. An outbreak of diphtheria occurred at Gayton-le-Marsh in the family of Mr. Andrews. A boy, J. Andrews, aged eleven, died, and other mild cases occurred. In this case there were faulty arrangements of the privy and ash pits, which were at once remedied.

Typhoid fever. Under this head 5 deaths occurred. The first case was that of Mrs. Hall, at Mablethorpe, in February last. Her case has been noted under the head of Mablethorpe. John Chas. Dannatt, aged 51, died at Gayton-le-Marsh in September last. Insanitary conditions prevailed here and the water was at fault. Another fatal case was reported at Ludford. The subject of it was a man aged 60 years. The most serious outbreak of this disease, however, occurred at Withern in September last. The first case was that of a policeman, aged 39, named Richard Watson, and he died on 15th September. All the rest of the family, consisting of the mother and 5 children, contracted the disease, but recovered, with the exception of a daughter, aged 15 years, and she died on November 11th. At the date of this report, 2 of the children are in a serious condition, and a trained nurse was sent home to Lincoln with fever. The house they occupied was close to a disused burial ground, situated on high ground in the garden, and although no interment had taken place for 12 years, there were 13 tombstones, situated about 16 yards from the dwelling. There was a large dike running at right angles with the house, and this received the drainage from a cow-pasture; this was cleaned out, and the W.C., distant about a dozen yards from the house, overflowed into the neighbour's premises. The water supply from neighbours was exceptionally good, and trained nurses were employed, so that every precaution was taken to prevent the spread of the disease. In November I represented that the situation of the graves so near the dwelling must be held to be

the cause of these disasters, and I decided to condemn the house as soon as the patients could be removed. The nurses testified to foul smells arising from the kitchen floor, which seemed to confirm the opinion I entertained respecting the cause of the outbreak. The continuous downpour of rain during the autumn months, suggested the idea that the decomposed debris from the graves had been washed under the foundations of the house.

Whooping cough. There were 3 fatal cases amongst children, viz. :—2 at Grainthorpe and 1 at Northcotes. This disease never became an epidemic, but cases were reported from other parishes of the district, principally during the months of October and November.

Pulmonary disease. 22 deaths are reported under this head. Of these 11 were due to Phthisis; there seems to be less fatality from this class of disease, and it will compare favourably with the returns of former years. This is suggestive of improvement in the house accommodation and food supplies for the labouring classes and is deserving of notice. As is usually the case, the acute forms of the disease occurred principally during the autumn and winter months. There were 7 deaths from Cancer, 3 were males and 4 females. The violent deaths were 9.

House accommodation and drainage. Under this head many improvements have been carried out during the past year. The schools at Tathwell have been considerably improved, the yard in the rear of the main building has been carried farther back, and the W.C. and ash closets, which were previously much confined, rebuilt. At Cadwell High Field extensive drainage alterations have been carried out in connection with the house and cottages adjacent, leaving nothing to be desired. The house accommodation for the working classes is considerably improved, partly from the circumstance of many families having left the

district for other spheres of labour, and also new houses having been built.

Water supply. Great attention has been bestowed on this subject; 130 samples of water have been analysed, including 20 for Mablethorpe alone, 20 wells were ordered to be cleaned out, and 6 new ones were sunk, including 1 parish well for Saltfleet, which will be a great boon to the parish as drinking-water was very scarce owing to the drought in summer. In addition to the foregoing, 20 samples of water were analysed for Mablethorpe, 8 new wells have been sunk during the year, and 6 old wells have been cleaned out. In this parish 260 notices have been served by the Sanitary Inspector to abate nuisances in the entire district.

VITAL STATISTICS.

The Births were 511, of which 272 were males and 239 females, in the ratio of 23·9 per 1000. The deaths were 260, of which 138 were males and 122 females, being in the ratio of 12·1 per 1000.

The deaths from Zymotic diseases were 19, viz:—

PUERPERAL FEVER	..	1
MEASLES	..	3
TYPHOID FEVER ..	..	5
DIARRHŒA	..	3
DIPHTHERIA	..	3
WHOOPING COUGH	..	3
ERYSIPELAS	..	1
		19

being in the ratio of ·8 per 1000.

The notifications of infectious diseases were 121, of which there were—

SCARLATINA	..	..	77
TYPHOID FEVER	..	..	11
SMALL POX MODIFIED	..		1
DIPHTHERIA..	..	..	23
PUERPERAL FEVER	..		1
ERYSIPELAS	..	..	8

Of the erysipelas cases all recovered except the case of T. Bradley, aged 64, who died at Saltfleet.

The case of puerperal fever which terminated fatally, was that of a female, aged 33, who died from this disease, complicated with child-birth, at Binbrook.

The deaths of children aged 1 year and under were 49 in the ratio of 2·2 per 1000; and those of children under 5 years, 12 or ·5 per 1000. In the year 1895 there were 77 deaths in the first category, or 3·6 per 1000, and the deaths of children under 5 and above 1 year were 17, or ·8 per 1000.

It may be interesting to review the death rates for the last 10 years—

The death rate in 1886 was 14·1 per 1000.

do.	1887	„	14·4	„
do.	1888	„	12·2	„
do.	1889	„	13·8	„
do.	1890	„	14·6	„
do.	1891	„	16·5	„
do.	1892	„	13·3	„
do.	1893	„	13·3	„
do.	1894	„	13·2	„
do.	1895	„	15·5	„
do.	1896	„	12·1	„

General Remarks. It will have been noticed that no deaths have been returned directly attributable to

“Influenza,” although the disease has occurred as a complication in some of the Reports. It is gratifying to note that this formidable complaint is dying out, at least in the form it presented on its first invasion about the year 1891; the attacks recently have been of a much milder character. The same remarks may apply to Scarlatina, as in no instance did the disease assume a severe type in 1896, although the number of notifications under this head (77) show that the disease is still rife amongst us, and that it has lost none of its infectious character. Consequently, the same precautions have to be enforced.

In the following Villages no deaths occurred during the year 1896 :--

FARFORTH.	GRIMOLDBY.
HALLINGTON.	MANBY.
RAITHBY.	GREAT CARLTON.
STEWTON.	CASTLE CARLTON.
HAGNABY.	GRAINSBY.
HAUGH.	CALCETHORPE.
NORTH RESTON.	GAYTON-LE-WOLD.
SALTFLEETBY ST.	WYHAM.
CLEMENTS.	

The Sub-Registration Districts will now be reviewed separately.

LOUTH SUB-DISTRICT.

1 Brackenboro'.	13 Little Grimsby.
2 Burwell.	14 Muckton.
3 North Elkington.	15 Oxcombe.
4 South Elkington.	16 Raithby and Maltby.
5 Farforth-cum-Maidenwell	17 Ruckland.

LOUTH SUB-DISTRICT—*continued.*

6 Fotherby.	18 Stewton.
7 Hallington.	19 Tathwell.
8 Haugham.	20 Utterby.
9 Keddington.	21 Welton-le-Wold.
10 Legbourne.	22 Withcall.
11 Louth Park.	23 Worlaby.
12 Little Cawthorpe.	

Population—3,918.

DEATHS.			BIRTHS.		
Males.	Females.	Rate per 1000.	Males.	Females.	Rate per 1000.
27	23	12·6	43	44	22·2
Total 50.			Total 87.		

N.B.—A child, aged 9, died at South Elkington from Diphtheria.

WITHERN SUB-DISTRICT.

1 Withern	10 Tothill.
2 Mablethorpe.	11 Claythorpe.
3 Trusthorpe.	12 Authorpe. [Greenfield
4 Gayton-le-Marsh.	13 Belleau with Aby and
5 Strubby with Woodthorpe.	14 South Thoresby.
6 Maltby-le-Marsh.	15 Swaby.
7 Saleby with Woodthorpe.	16 Walmsgate.
8 Hagnaby with Hannah.	17 North Reston.
9 Haugh.	18 South Reston.

Population—4,126.

DEATHS.			BIRTHS.		
Males.	Females.	Rate per 1000.	Males.	Females.	Rate per 1000.
30	28	14·0	58	47	22·7
Total 58.			Total 105.		

N.B.—2 deaths of children, of the ages of 6 years and 11 respectively, from Diphtheria at Mablethorpe and Gayton-le-Marsh.

A farmer, named Dannatt, aged 51 died at Gayton-le-Marsh from Typhoid Fever, and a policeman, Richard Watson, aged 39, died at Withern from Typhoid Fever, also his daughter, aged 15, from same disease.

A female, aged 48, died at Mablethorpe from the same cause.

TETNEY SUB-DISTRICT.

1 Holton-le-Clay.	7 Yarborough. [mew.
2 Waithe.	8 Covenham St. Bartholo-
3 North Thoresby.	9 Covenham St. Mary.
4 North Cotes.	10 Fulstow.
5 Marshchapel.	11 Ludborough.
6 Grainthorpe with Ludney	12 Grainsby.
and Wragholme.	13 Tetney.

Population—4,592.

DEATHS.			BIRTHS.		
Males.	Females.	Rate per 1000.	Males.	Females.	Rate per 1000.
33	33	14·1	54	53	23·3
Total 66.			Total 107		

Through the kindness of Mr. T. W. Wallis, I have appended the particulars of the rainfall during the year 1896.

Months.	Total depth.		Greatest fall in 24 hours.		Number of days on which .01 or more fell.
	Inches.	Depth.	Date.		
January ..	1.21	.31	13	13	
February ..	0.75	.36	20	7	
March ..	2.84	.52	13	21	
April	1.23	.26	4	13	
May	0.88	.46	20	7	
June	2.03	.55	23	13	
July	2.23	.84	26	9	
August ..	2.02	.63	4	16	
September ..	5.59	.99	24	24	
October ..	5.69	1.19	11	25	
November ..	1.60	.61	7	10	
December ..	4.28	.51	20	24	
Total ..	30.35			182	

REMARKS.

EXCESS OVER AVERAGE.

For September and October, 5.10, for September only, 2.75. Nearly double the average.

